

EXHIBIT 4
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HB 241

House Bill 241
January 24, 2011
Presented by Jim Kropp
House Transportation Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Enforcement of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to provide information for House Bill 241.

Currently, FWP holds authority to enforce vehicular sound violations for boats and snowmobiles. We have seen very few violations as of late as the industry has done a very good job of producing both boats and snowmobiles that are substantially quieter than they were 30 years ago. We anticipate encountering a limited number of OHV sound violations inasmuch as that industry has also made strides in producing quieter OHVs and motorcycles. However, because this bill requires the use of a different measurement standard than what enforcement personnel have previously been trained to utilize, we will need to train officers to this new standard. Also, we will need to purchase additional sound meters as well as other metering devices that are necessary to measure to that standard. FWP officers would then have them readily available when they encounter potential violations. Currently, FWP Enforcement Bureau has six functional sound meters statewide, all of which are in need of calibration. Meters must be calibrated annually in order to provide court admissible evidence.

It is also important to note that we currently have a statewide operations budget of \$20,500 for all OHV enforcement and \$33,800 for personal services. This translates to roughly \$281 in operations and 17 hours per officer per year. Fuel, mileage, and maintenance of FWP OHVs for patrol comes out of this amount as well.